

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 ACDA-10 /097 W

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R 131347Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9169

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMACUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 0435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE

SUBJECT: EGYPT TO SEND RELIEF AID TO PALESTINIANS CAMPS IN LEBANON

1. ALL CAIRO PAPERS JANUARY 13 REPORT ORDERS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO SEND RELIEF SUPPLIES TO PALESTINIANS LIVING INSIDE BESIEGED CAMPS IN LEBANON. DECISION WAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN FOLLOWING REPORTS OF SUFFERING OF PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING WOMEN, CHILDREN AND AGED, IN THE CAMPS. AID WILL BE PUT AT DISPOSAL OF PLO.

2. AHRAH REPORTS URGENT MESSAGE FROM PLO CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT TO GOE WARNING THAT RECENT PARTICIPATION OF LEBANESE ARMY IN FIGHTING ON SIDE OF PHALANGISTS AT TEL AL-ZAATAR CAMP AND ALLEGED PLOTS IN LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER INVOLVE ARMY IN FIGHTING ARE VREATING A DANGEROUS SITUATION IN WHICH PLO FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO EXERCISE ITS POLICY OF RESTRAINT. MESSAGE REPORTEDLY CITED A MEETING OF FRANJIYA, CHAMOUN, JEMAYYEL, AND SOME ARMY COMMANDERS AT REPUBLCIAN PALACE AS EXAMPLE OF SCHEME TO INCREASE ARMY INVOLVEMENT ON SIDE OF PHALANGISTS. ARAFAT CALLED ON ARAB STATES TO "SHOULDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES" TO AVERT "COMPLETE DETERIORATION" OF

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SITUATION.

3. PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT FATAH REPRESENTATIVE RIBHI 'AWAD HELD URGENT MEETING JANUARY 12 WITH HIGH RANKING GOE OFFICIALS ON LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND THAT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYYID MAR'I HAS CALLED FOR URGENT MEETING OF ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS GRAVE SITUATION RESULTING FROM SIEGE OF CAMPS AND EFFORTS OF "CERTAIN CIRCLES" TO PROMOTE A CLASH BETWEEN PLO AND ARMY.

4. COMMENT: DISPATCH OF RELEEF AID TO BELEAGUERED PALESTINIANS PROBABLY REPRESENTS ANOTHER ATTEMPT BY GOE TO UNDERLINE ITS SUPPORT FOR APLESTINIANS WITHOUT, HOWEVER, REALLY SEEKING TO TAKE SIDES IN LEBANESE CONFLICT. FACT OF PROMINENT PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THIS HUMANITARIAN ACT IS FURTHER REFLECTION OF GOE'S INABILITY (OR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER) TO COMEUP WITH ANY POLITICAL STEP WHICH COULD HELP SOLVE LEBANESE PROBLEM. EILTS

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